

WFMT (Chicago) tells me every year that they are licenced to serve the public interest and that comments they've received over the past year are on record and displayed for public perusal. I have never paid attention to where because I firmly believe WFMT provides a significant public service with its fine arts broadcasting. Sinclair Broadcasting, on the other hand, is clearly attempting to serve its own interests and the interests of its corporate shareholders. Their decision to air a negative campaign ad in the guise of news is reprehensible and an example of the significant dangers of media consolidation.

All stations using the public airwaves free of charge are obligated by law (as WFMT tells me once a year) to serve the public interest. Sinclair clearly is not meeting this obligation. Corporate interests are more than adequately served in this country by this administration and, increasingly, individual citizens are awakening to the power inherent in free speech in a democracy. If free speech is good for Sinclair, it's good for the rest of us and I'll do my part to make sure corporate interests are not served to the detriment of my own private interests and to the interest of the public good.